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HOUSE APPROVES FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BIO-BASED MILITARY FUEL AT UW-SUPERIOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved his request for \$5 million in next year's defense budget to allow for the development of a sustainable production process for low-temperature-tolerant bio-based military fuels by the University of Wisconsin - Superior.

“Our military uses huge amounts of high quality heavy fuel and it's in our nation's best interest to ensure that we have a reliable source for that fuel. Bio-diesel has the potential to provide both a sustainable and environmentally friendly way of producing the military fuel we need,” said Obey. “So I'm glad the House approved my request for funds to allow the University of Superior to begin the development of an efficient, affordable process to produce a suitable bio-diesel fuel for the military.”

This project will address two problems. Currently, most bio-diesel is produced by a multi-step process that makes it comparatively expensive. Most bio-diesel also has lower energy density and poor flow at cold temperatures, which makes it ill suited for military use. The funds Obey requested are intended to allow UW-Superior to develop a single-step refining process for

bio-diesel, which would lower the cost, and explore the use of plants from northern climates, which are more likely to produce cold-tolerant fuels.

The defense budget was passed by the House over the weekend and must still be approved by the Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law. “But having these projects included in the House approved version means a major hurdle has been cleared,” Obey concluded.

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